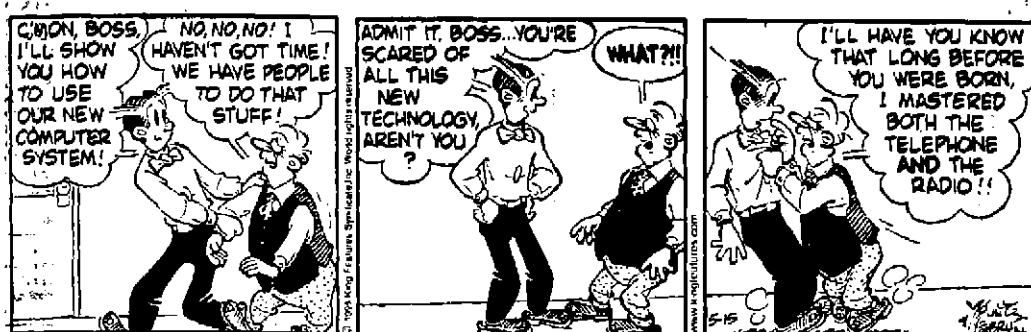
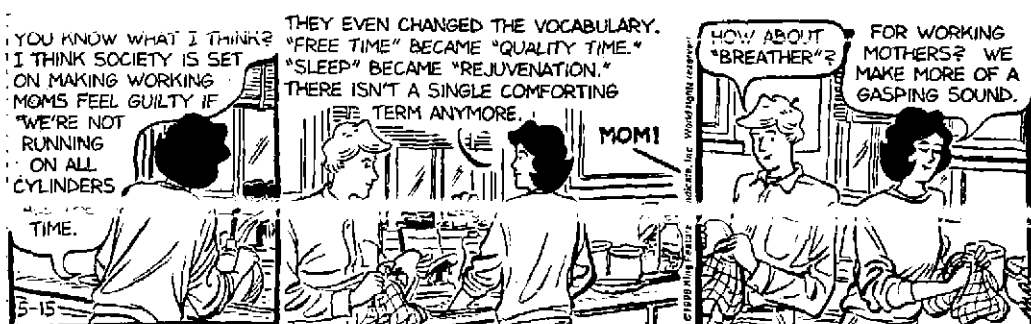


BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



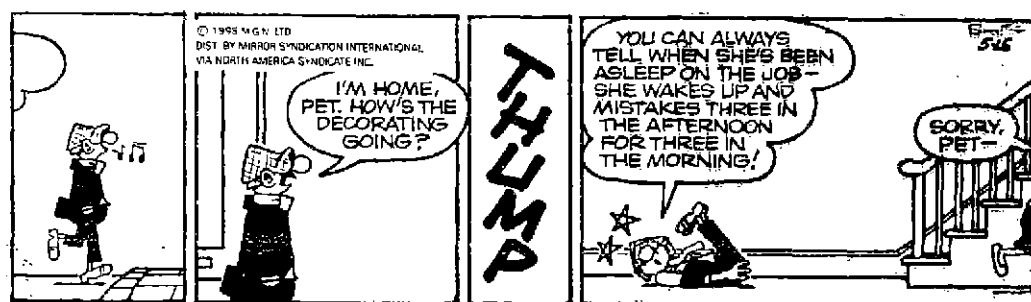
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



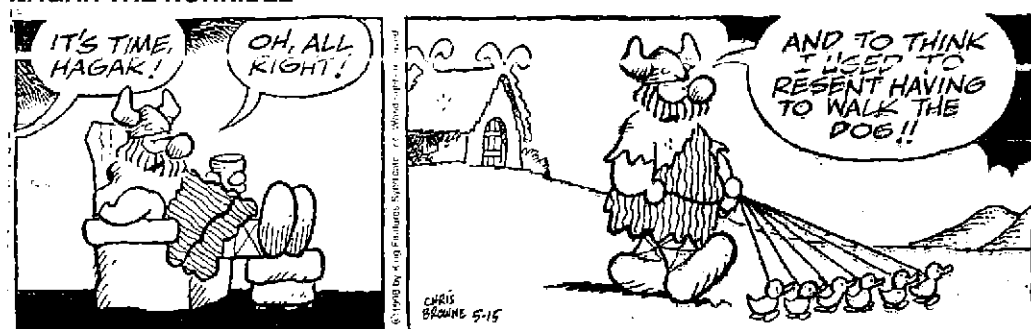
ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



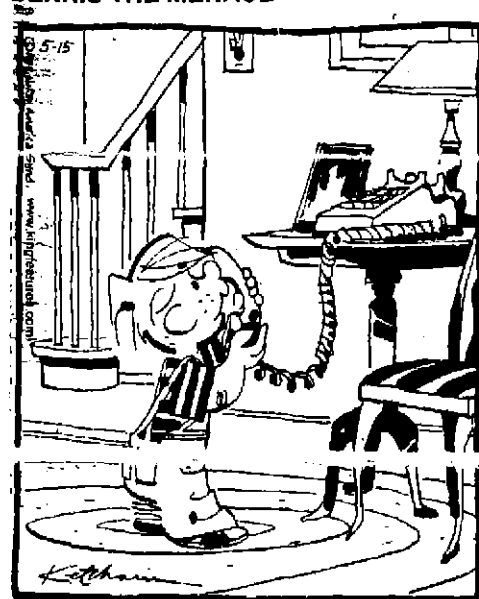
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



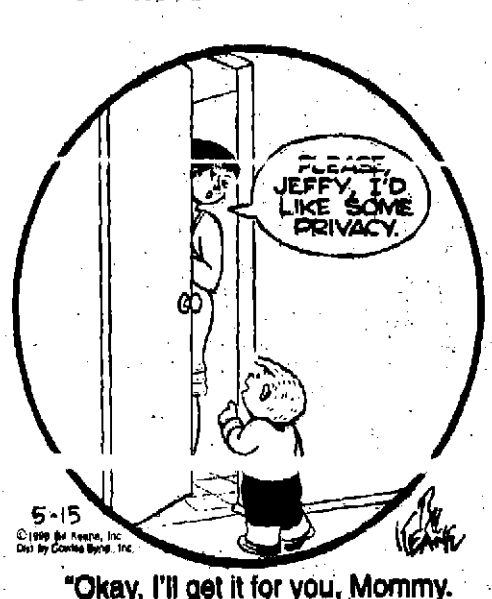
DILBERT



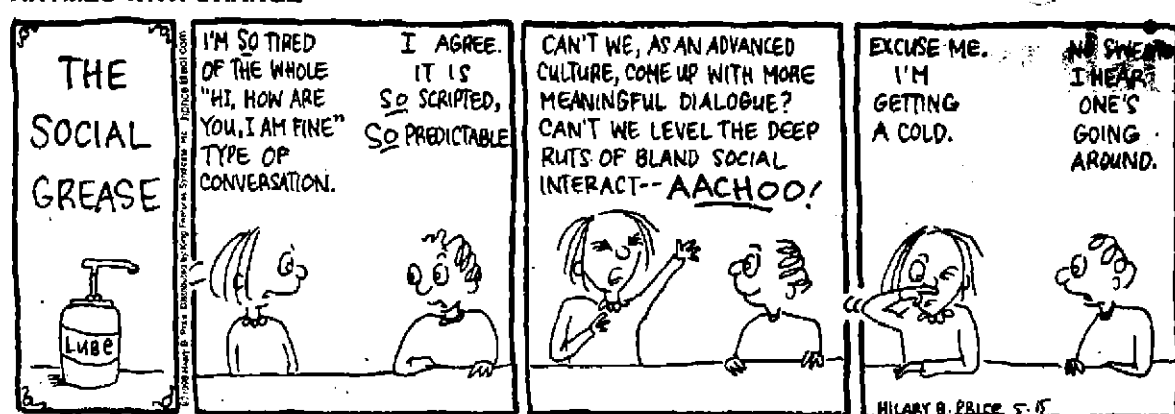
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



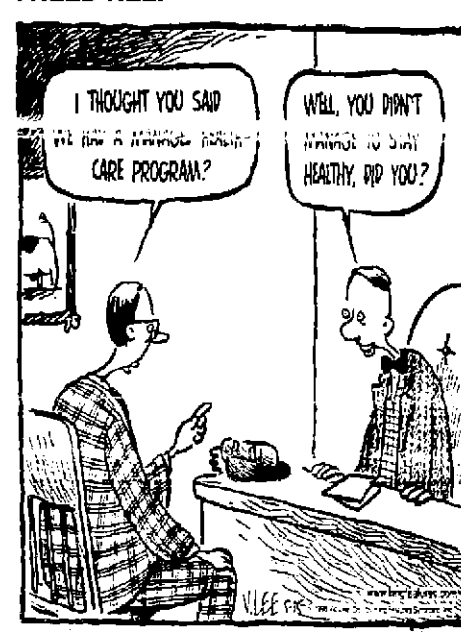
RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Singer Eddy Arnold is 80. Actress- Singer Anne Marie Alberghetti is 62. Counterculture icon Wavy Gravy is 62. Singer Trini Lopez is 61. Actress-singer Lainie Kazan is 58. Actor Chazz Palminteri is 47. Baseball player George Brett is 45. Actor Lee Horsley is 43. Singer-rapper Prince Be (PM Dawn) is 28. Actor David Charvet ("Melrose Place") is 26. Rock musician Ahmet Zappa is 24. Olympic gold medal gymnast Amy Chow is 20.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

K	M	E	L	L	S		
T	P	A	E	U	N	S	
G	T	I	O	R	R	H	4th Letter Type
A	H	E	R	T	E	T	Double Word Score

PAR SCORE 135-145

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 5-15

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For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Finger foods

O X V P S S D O N D K S I F D
A X V T A O Q O M J A L H F C
A Y W U N S R P N L J E H F D
B Z X U D V T T R Q O Z R M S
P K T I W F H R F D B T S B R
O S G N I R N O I N C E Z Y E
P N E K C I H C D E I R F S K
C W V T H E R Q O K S P L N C
O L K I I S H F O S E L P P A
R D C A P S G O D T O H Z X R
N W V U S S C R Q R Y D N A C

Thursday's unlisted clue: HORNSBY

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Friday's unlisted clue hint: EATEN AT THE MOVIES

Apples Cookies Files Pretzels
Bread Crackers Hot dogs Rolls
Candy Donuts Onion rings Sandwich
Chips Fried chicken Pastries

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Saturday, May 16, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Existing projects must be brought to completion before new ones are undertaken. Concentrate on one thing at a time for success.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Old friends make the best company. Issues between partners can be resolved amicably through heart-to-heart discussions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You need more time to study a business proposition. You could find it necessary to talk to an accountant.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Ideas have been stewing inside of you for too long. Take one off the back burner and make it work for you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Leave ego out of talks with higher-ups. By being objective, you will be more persuasive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Some take on extra responsibility in connection with a group. It's a good time to make your views known.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Distractions compete for your time, but research, writing and studying are favored. Don't let anything interfere with concentration.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Others are counting on you. Be sure to follow through on promises.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Putting your financial affairs on a sound basis is the day's theme. Be cautious rather than experimental when money is concerned.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Anything involving writing or speaking highlighted. You're at your best, but don't scatter your energies.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Home matters are accentuated. You'll make important family decisions.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Reconciliations are possible. Do not bring up past hurts.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

There is virtually universal agreement that accurate defense is more difficult than either competent bidding or declarer play.

Against a slam, accurate defense is even more challenging. One small slip and a bushel of points swings the other way.

Put yourself in East's chair and defend against today's spade slam. South wins dummy's club ace, draws trumps, and pashes dummy's club king. After he cashes the king and two more diamonds, he leads a low heart to dummy's jack, and it's East's turn to shine. What happens if East takes his heart ace? Nothing good for the defenders. If East returns whatever minor he has left, South enjoys a ruff and discard for his 12th winner.

And if East returns a heart, South has a pinch for his slam-going trick. The winning play is for East to duck the heart jack. South's play reveals he has no minor-suit cards left, marking him with three hearts. This leaves East with no reason to win immediately. Better to duck and force South to play a second heart himself. After East's wise duck, South has no winning option. Regardless of how South plays the remaining cards, the defenders will win two hearts, sending the slam one down. Refusing an ace against a slam appears to be a dangerous move. It becomes much easier when the defenders make the effort to visualize declarer's distribution.

05-15-A

NORTH
♠ K Q 10 7
♥ K J 8 6
♦ K 5 4
♣ A K

WEST
♠ 5 4 2
♥ Q 7 2
♦ 10 8 3
♣ 10 9 8 7

EAST
♠ 2
♥ A 9 4
♦ 9 7 5 2
♣ Q 6 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A J 9 8 6
♥ 10 5 3
♦ A Q J
♣ J 5

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: North

The bidding:
North East South West
1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass
4♠ Pass 6♠ All pass

Opening lead: Club 10

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0403

ACROSS

1 Morgiana's master, in story
8 Like 1-Across
14 Typewriter part
16 A Ryder
17 They have quarters in Las Vegas
19 "Jane Eyre" prequel
20 They cling
21 Petri dish gel
22 Minor league affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates
26 Kids' tune sung with gestures
27 European wading bird

DOWN

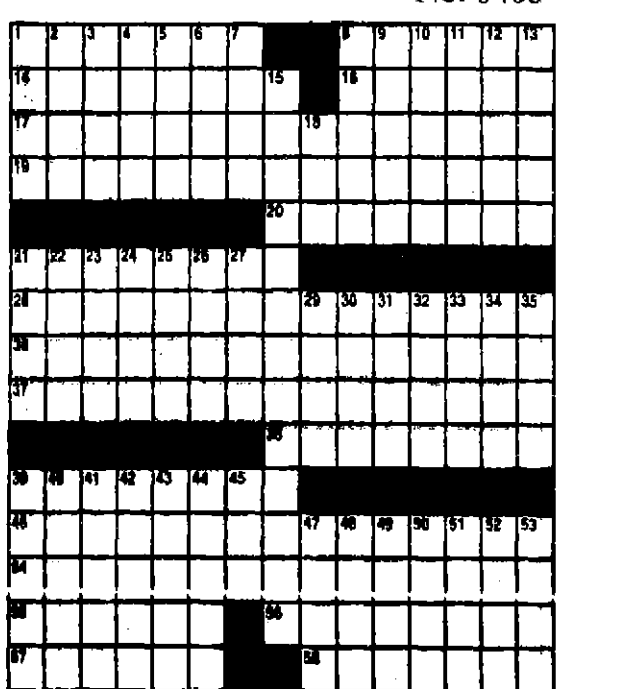
2 As nimble as—in a cage (old saying)
3 Legal scholar
4 Seeing red
5 Highlands
6 A show of vanity

7 Antiquing agent
8 Flooded
9 Dentist's directive
10 Choice words
11 Oregon Trail fort
12 Lay to rest
13 Durango dwellings
14 Arthur Gordon Pym's creator
15 Spoiled
16 Stomach botherer
17 Warden's charge
18 "Hush" director Avakian
19 Caramel candy brand

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

FLIP MANTA CLIP
OILY ORION HOMO
ODOR DIANE EVAN
REVERECITREAVEM
EFIAHS SRI
DAY LEE TAKEHIT
ANGEL ADULTATE
LITERARY FILM
INCHURUMA AND
RIT SOPOR
MYTHIOIDGALOVE
HEAVY AGONY DUEL
GAVE MYNIA THOT
NEED ELEGY EDNA

20 Others, to Ovid
21 Skedaddle, in Dogpatch
22 Dealer's demand
23 Bitoom diner
24 Multipurpose vehicles
25 Like some MOMA art
26 Raging maniac called "Fingers"
27 Pit (heartbeat sound)



Puzzle by Frank Longo

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47 Minstrel's songs
48 "New Jack City" star
49 Minutes

51 Gave a nod to, perhaps
52 Greek war goddess
53 W.W. II-issue

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-800-426-5856 (75¢ per minute).

Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.